

**METHOD, APPARATUS AND SYSTEM FOR BLACK SEGMENT
DETECTION**

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a method, apparatus and system for detecting
5 black segments and selecting a dark area in film or digital images. The present invention
identifies one or more areas having a substantially uniform gray level within the digital
image, determining an effective darkness value for each identified area, and selects the
dark area corresponding to the identified area having the highest effective darkness value.
The gray level of the dark area can then be used as the black level in a normalization
10 process.